

***Report on the Implementation of the
Gun-Free Schools Act
in the States and Outlying Areas
School Years 2005-06 and 2006-07***

**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**

Prepared for:

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Introduction

The *Gun-Free Schools Act* (GFSA) was reauthorized by Section 4141 of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) *Act of 2001* (Public Law 107-110). GFSA requires that each state or outlying area¹ receiving federal funds under the ESEA have a law that requires all local education agencies (LEAs) in its jurisdiction to expel from school for at least one year any student determined to have brought a firearm to school.

The full report summarizes the 2005–06 and 2006–07 data submitted by the states and outlying areas. The report provides a summary of both the overall findings and the 2005–06 and 2006–07 data by survey question in bulleted, graphic, and tabular form. It also compares the 2006–07 data against data submitted in previous years, focusing on 2005–06. Finally, the report presents profiles containing key data for each state and outlying area.

Summary of Findings

The following two tables present information on school expulsions due to students' bringing firearms to school.

Table 1: Number of students K–12 expelled because they were determined to have brought firearms to school, by school year: 1998–99 through 2006–07									
	School Year								
	1998–99	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07
Total for states and outlying areas	3,477	2,835	2,537	2,554	2,143	2,165	2,591	3,028	2,695
Expulsion rate per 100,000 students	7.5	6.1	5.4	5.4	4.4	4.5	5.3	6.1	5.5

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS), data from OSDFS program files and Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN). GFSA data collection instrument entitled "Gun-Free Schools Act Report," OMB #1810-0602 used 1998-99 through 2001-02; and GFSA data collection instrument with same title, OMB #1865-0002 used 2002-03 through 2006-07. Data for 1998-99, 1999-00, and 2000-01 have been revised based on reports from the states and thus may differ from previously published figures. (Previously published Gun-Free Schools Act reports for 1998-99 through 2003-04 are available at <http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/gfsa/index.html>.)

¹ In this report, references to *states* comprise the 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; *outlying areas* comprise American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

Table 2: Number and rate of expulsions and changes in number and rate in K–12 schools in all states and outlying areas, by year: 2005–06 and 2006–07		
Years	Expulsions	
	Number	Rate per 100,000
2005–06	3,028	6.1
2006–07	2,695	5.5
Change	-333	-0.6
Percent change	-11%	-10%

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, data from Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN). GFSA data collection instrument entitled “Gun-Free Schools Act Report,” OMB #1865-002. Data updated as of April 2009.

- Overall, 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico reported data under the *GFSA* for school years 2005–06 and 2006–07. States and outlying areas reported that they expelled a total of 3,028 students determined to have brought firearms to school in 2005–06, and 2,695 in 2006–07. The expulsion rate was 6.1 students per every 100,000 students in 2005–06; 5.5 per 100,000 in 2006–07.
- In 2005–06, 54 percent of the expulsions were in senior high schools, 31 percent were in junior high schools, and 15 percent were in elementary schools. In 2006–07, 59 percent were in senior high schools, 27 percent were in junior high schools, and 14 percent were in elementary schools.²
- In 2005–06, more than half of the expulsions (55 percent) involved students determined to have brought handguns to school; 11 percent involved a rifle or shotgun; and 34 percent were for another type of firearm or other destructive device, such as a bomb, grenade or starter pistol. In 2006–07, more than half of the expulsions (53 percent) involved a handgun, 10 percent involved a rifle or shotgun, and 37 percent were for another type of firearm or other destructive device.
- In 2005–06, 45 percent of expulsions for students determined to have brought firearms to school were modified (i.e., reduced to below the one-year standard). In 2006–07, more than half (53 percent) were modified. This continues a trend to increased modifications over the last decade. In 1997–98, just 30 percent of expulsions for students determined to have brought firearms to school were modified.

² **Elementary school:** A school classified as elementary by state and local practice and composed of any span of grades not above grade 6. Combined elementary and junior high schools (see definition to follow) are considered junior high schools, and combined elementary and secondary schools (e.g., K–12 buildings) are classified as senior high schools for this report.

Junior high school: A separately organized and administered school intermediate between elementary and senior high schools, which might also be called a middle school, usually includes grades 7, 8, and 9; grades 7 and 8; or grades 6, 7, and 8. Combined elementary and junior high schools are considered junior high schools for this report; combined junior and senior high schools are considered senior high schools (see definition to follow) for this report.

Senior high school: A school offering the final years of school work necessary for graduation, usually including grades 10, 11, and 12 or grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Combined junior and senior high schools are classified as high schools for this report; combined elementary and secondary schools (e.g., K–12 buildings) are also classified as senior high schools.

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- In 2005–06, 28 percent of students with modified expulsions were students with disabilities, (i.e., served under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* [*IDEA*]). In 2006–07, 26 percent of students with modified expulsions were served under *IDEA*.
 - In 2005–06, 26 percent of students expelled because they were determined to have brought firearms to school were referred to an alternative placement; 46 percent of these referred students had modified expulsions. In 2006–07, 29 percent of expelled students in the reporting states and outlying areas were referred to an alternative placement, and 50 percent of these students had modified expulsions.
 - All (100 percent) of the states and outlying areas reported that their LEAs were 100 percent compliant in submitting the assurances required under the *GFSA*.
 - For the states and outlying areas, the reported number of expulsions decreased 11 percent from 3,028 in 2005–06 to 2,695 in 2006–07. Of the 52 states reporting expulsions, 28 showed a decrease in the number of expulsions from 2005–06 to 2006–07. Among these, the greatest percentage decreases were reported in Delaware, Kansas, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Iowa, and New Jersey. Conversely, 20 showed an increase in the number of expulsions from 2005–06 to 2006–07, with the largest percentage increases in Puerto Rico, Louisiana, Minnesota, Indiana, and Idaho. Four states remained constant (i.e., zero decline or increase in number of expulsions).

Conclusion

Relative to the 2005–06 school year, the 2006–07 school year saw 11 percent fewer expulsions of K–12 students determined to have brought firearms to school in American public schools, as well as a 10 percent reduction in the rate of expulsions. However, this one-year decrease is consistent with the average annual fluctuation (+/- 0.7) in this rate since 1998–99. In that time period, there has been no consistent upward or downward trend in the rate of expulsions of K–12 students determined to have brought firearms to school in American public schools.